

25X1A

SUBJECT Economic Situation in Albania

DATE DISTR. 20 SEP 50

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Informants were not in a position to watch the economic life of the country closely. Nevertheless they affirm that the economic situation is wretched, and that the food crisis is severe, and that there are no indications of future improvement.
2. Forms for the obligatory surrender of crops were distributed throughout the entire Komitet of Sarande, and the return appears to have increased in comparison with last year. One of the sheets which informants read contained the following items to be turned over for each ten stremmata of cultivated land:
 - a. 38 kilograms of meat
 - b. 110 eggs
 - c. 8 kilograms of wool
 - d. 50 kilograms of corn (maize)
 - e. 60 kilograms of beans
 - f. 1.5 kilograms of butter.
3. The people in indignation refused to pick up their forms, and consequently the Government distributes them through the police, who accompany the government employees. The populace was powerless to resist in any way except by accompanying their acceptance of the forms with sarcastic remarks after the state agents had withdrawn.
4. They are continuing to recruit young men and women throughout the entire country and enrolling them in the so-called Voluntary Labor Brigades. As soon as these labor brigades are formed they are taken to Elbasan and Tirana, where they stay for two or three months working on the state projects being constructed there.
5. Informants confirm the construction of factories on the basis of the Two Year Plan. This Plan, in addition to the factories reported previously, provides for the following:
 - a. Increase of production and in the number of mines and oil wells.
 - b. Establishment of a sanatorium two kilometers southeast of Tirana.

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- c. Building of public schools, both elementary and intermediate, in all villages where they do not yet exist.
 - d. Enlarging of the lumber mill Misto Mane in Tirana and construction of another new one.
 - e. Nationalization of agriculture (i. e. collectivization).
6. Collectivization of agriculture is to take place by degrees, and after public opinion has been prepared by suitable talks and speeches; they are preparing to raise the quantity of the obligatory contribution and also to impose a heavy taxation to meet this plan.
7. Nationalization of agriculture will be done as follows. In addition to the cooperatives existing today, they will establish in each village a "Collective Farm" which will include all the fields of the village. The owners will be removed from their own farms and will work wherever the Cooperative to which they belong assigns them. They will be paid by it for a certain amount of their produce in proportion to the daily work for each one. This agrarian reform will completely abolish the small land-ownership of individuals which still exists. It has already been applied in the following villages: Ciflik near Konispolis, Lumalia and Ravanik near Korce. The Cooperative Farms of these villages will receive a 10 percent remission of the obligatory contribution of produce collected by the State.
8. A new village, which will be the seat of a Lokalitet, is being constructed not far from the sugar refinery now under construction at Maliq. This village will also bear the name of Maliq, and will consist of wooden buildings which will be used for dwellings for the workers of the sugar refinery and also for the permanent inhabitants of the region. The latter will be engaged in the cultivation of sugar beets in the area of the Maliq swamp which has been drained.

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